

## Norma Jean Anderson Civil Rights and Academic Achievement Award

The Norma Jean Anderson Civil Rights and Academic Achievement Award is presented as part of the on going work toward excellence in education for all students in an environment free of systemic privilege based on race and class. A school free of racism, classism, prejudice and discrimination promotes safety, personal growth and academic achievement for ALL students.

America is a diverse and competitive society. In Amherst, there are students who come to school lacking the advantages of family income, educational resources, and the privileges implicit in being white. The Norma Jean Anderson Civil Rights and Academic Achievement Award is intended to applaud the contributions of a current **teacher, administrator or staff member in the Amherst Pelham Regional school district** who promotes the ideals of a just and respectful community built on compassionate relationships. We recognize many teachers, administrators and staff share these goals, and we look forward to acknowledging their contributions.

### CRITERIA FOR SELECTING NOMINEES FOR the NORMA JEAN ANDERSON CIVIL RIGHTS AND ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

I. Recipients of the award will be employed by the Amherst Regional Pelham School District as a teacher, administrator or staff person in the year the award is presented.

II. Recipients of this award shall be nominated by students, parents, teachers, staff and administrators of Amherst Regional Regional School District. The person nominating must write a statement of no less than one page and not more than three pages explaining why the nominee meets the criteria. Specific examples are encouraged.

III. Nominations should be sent to RaDAR (Race and Discipline Action Rights) Committee as per the stated deadlines. Please address nominations to RaDAR, c/o Reynolds Winslow, 1040 N. Pleasant Street, Apt. 219, Amherst, MA 01002.

IV. The final selection of the recipient of the award will be made by the RaDAR Committee.

## V. Criteria for nomination:

The nominee shall demonstrate capacity in one or more of the following:

1. The Nominee demonstrates an interest and willingness to assist students of color and students less privileged by virtue of class background beyond the “usual and routine” requirements of the teaching/administrative/staff position.
2. The Nominee demonstrates an interest in the safety of students of color and students less privileged by virtue of class background and works to insure that the school where s/he teaches or works is a safe environment for all students.
3. In the case of a teacher, the Nominee must show evidence of holding all students to high standards of academic excellence and demonstrates fairness in grading.
4. The Nominee shares with colleagues the skills and information for creating and encouraging a classroom or school environment where the unique strengths and talents of all students are enhanced.
5. The Nominee participates with colleagues in the planning of curriculum goals for the classroom or the development of administrative and staff goals free of racism, classism, prejudice and discrimination. The Nominee helps to reveal the explicit as well as subtle and implicit advantages of whiteness and economic security in our society and school community which distorts a fair and impartial education for all.
6. The Nominee works with parents and community members as well as fellow teachers, administrators and staff in promoting a school free of racism, prejudice and discrimination.

Additional considerations;

A. This award shall be presented at the annual community gathering known as the Martin Luther King, Jr., Breakfast.

B. In order to gather nominations, the award will be publicized through the following methods:

1. Newsletters by parent organizations in all of schools in the district
2. Notices in the mailboxes of all APRS administrators, faculty and staff
3. Article in the GRAPHIC for Amherst Regional High School students.
5. Articles in the Amherst Bulletin and Daily Hampshire Gazette

C. The RaDAR Committee may consider sending a request to the ARHS Art Department for a student competition for art works which would be an appropriate design for the Norma Jean Anderson Civil Rights Award. The selection of the graphic(s) will be made by a Selection Committee including representatives of the RaDAR Committee and the ARHS Art Department.

10/14/2009